

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Planning Directors and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Cathy E. Creswell, Acting Deputy Director  
**Division of Housing Policy Development**

**SUBJECT:** Housing Element Preparation and Update Schedule

As you may know, as a result of the State Budget Act, certain housing element requirements including the preparation of the regional housing needs allocation, have been suspended for the last few years. I am pleased to announce that funding for these requirements has been included in the current State Budget. This will allow the housing element update cycle, which has been extended several times in the last few years, to resume, including the preparation of regional housing need allocations. However, in order to provide sufficient time for Councils of Governments (COGs) to prepare these allocations, the Governor recently signed SB 256 (Chapter 819, Statutes of 1998), granting one final extension. We have attached a revised housing element update schedule for your convenience.

We look forward to beginning the next housing element update cycle. The timing for the next update is critical to ensuring the continuation of California's economic growth. Adequate local planning to house workers for needed jobs will ensure that local governments benefit from and can assist in sustaining the current economic expansion. In addition, housing needs in California have grown significantly in the last ten years. Overcrowding rates have doubled, cost burdens have increased significantly with nearly two-thirds of all low-income renters paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing, and California's homeownership rate continues to be among the lowest in the country. Housing elements are a critical tool to address these and other important community and economic development issues.

The Department also looks forward to fully implementing the housing element preparation and review streamlining reforms adopted in the last year. In consultation with local planners, the Department has developed administrative reforms designed to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the housing element process. We are confident these reforms will facilitate the preparation of housing element and significantly reduce the time and cost involved for local governments. Workshops and

training for the next housing element update cycle are currently being planned and will begin for local governments within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region by late spring 1999.

The Department remains committed to working in partnership with local governments to meet important housing needs. We recognize local governments must grapple with a variety of competing needs and issues. The Department will work cooperatively with local governments to ensure that critical housing issues can be effectively addressed in a manner most appropriate to each community's unique needs and circumstances. If you have any questions or comments about updating your housing element or the new schedule, please feel free to contact the Division at (916) 445-4728.

Attachment

### Revised Housing Element Update Schedule

Regional Jurisdictions	Next Revision Date
<b>San Diego Association of Governments:</b> San Diego County and all cities within the County	June 30, 1999
<b>Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG):</b> Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and all cities within each County.	June 30, 2000
<b>Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG):</b> Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, and all cities within the County.	June 30, 2001
<b>Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG):</b> Counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and all cities within each County.  <b>Council of Fresno County Governments:</b> Fresno County and all cities within the County.  <b>Kern County Council of Governments:</b> Kern County and all cities within the County.  <b>Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG):</b> Counties of Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, and all cities within each County.  The Cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, and Roseville.	June 30, 2002
<b>All Other Local Governments:</b> Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer (unincorporated County and cities of Auburn and Colfax), Plumas, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne and all cities within each County.	June 30, 2003